

culties still obtain. In due time, as much information as may be obtainable will be given in regard thereto. Meanwhile, C.M.A. members who may wish to write to Los Angeles hotels will find a limited list in this issue (see page 39).

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The 1946 Annual Session Will be What We Make It.—In conclusion, appeal is made to all members who may be able to participate, to submit titles for scientific papers (this invitation is extended also to military non-members who are stationed in hospital stations of military camps located in California), and to express the hope that not only Los Angeles physicians, but members of other County Societies throughout California will make special effort to be present at the 75th annual session of the California Medical Association.

Make note of the dates of the session, which appear at the top of the front cover of each issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE,—namely, commencing Tuesday, May 7, through Friday, May 10, 1946.

C.P.S. AND VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

New and Significant Alignments on Medical Care of Veterans.—Recent press dispatches indicate that the medical care of veterans, previously restricted to service in Veterans' Administration hospitals, might be put in operation in certain parts of the United States with addition of "extra"-Veterans' Administration hospital care. There are five VA hospitals at this time in California as follows: three general hospitals located at Palo Alto, San Francisco and Los Angeles; two tuberculosis hospitals operating at Livermore and San Fernando.

The first reference to private practitioner care of Veterans' Administration patients was to a plan instituted in New Jersey. Subsequently, an Associated Press dispatch of December 28, gave information concerning a contract made with Michigan physicians. On the following day, a news item referred to tentative negotiations for medical care to be given along somewhat similar lines, that were being carried on between California Physicians' Service and the Veterans' Administration authorities.

The A.P. item of December 28, dated at Washington, with comment on the Michigan procedure has informative value, and is worthy of perusal:

HOME TREATMENT PLAN FOR MICHIGAN VETERANS

Washington (By Associated Press)—Dec. 28.—Establishing a new policy to relieve its crowded facilities, the Veterans' Administration today announced a contract with Michigan physicians to treat ex-soldiers at home.

The contract is with the Michigan State Medical Society. It provides for its member doctors to treat war veterans whose disabilities are service-connected but do not require hospitalization.

Another plan nearing final approval would permit veterans to be hospitalized in their own community hospital instead of a Veterans' Administration institution. The Veterans' Administration would pay the bill.

Major General Paul R. Hawley, acting Surgeon General of the Veterans' Administration, said if the Michigan plan is successful it will be used in other states.

A Veterans' Administration statement said this is the first time a contract has been signed on a statewide basis for care of veterans by private physicians.

It added, the plan might increase the medical care and hospital space available for veterans with non-service connected disabilities.

Federal law requires hospitalization of veterans with non-service connected disabilities only if Veterans' Administration facilities are available.—San Francisco Chronicle, December 29.

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Concerning the New Jersey, Michigan and California Non-profit Agencies.—At the time of this writing, concerning a possible contract with California Physicians' Service, additional information may be gleaned from news items appearing in this issue on pages 45-46.

In the three states referred to, the voluntary non-profit medical service organizations in New Jersey, Michigan and California seemingly have been the instrumental medical groups through which the conferences concerning these new medical care alignments for Veterans' Administration of the Federal Government have been made possible. Therefore, C.M.A. readers may be interested in the following statistical data concerning the three organizations.

New Jersey.—"Medical-Surgical Plan of New Jersey" with headquarters at Newark in a state having 4,080,485 population, enrolled its first patient in 1942, having on July 1, 1945, a total enrollment in its plan, of 41,732 persons. Its type of benefit is classed as "medical-surgical care, available only to hospital patients."

Michigan.—"Michigan Medical Service" with headquarters at Detroit in a state having 5,375,195 population, enrolled its first patient in 1940, having on July 1, 1945, a total enrollment in its plan, of 842,057 persons. Its type of benefit is classed as "surgical only."

California.—"California Physicians' Service" with headquarters at San Francisco in a state having 7,881,694 population, enrolled its first patient in 1939, having on July 1, 1945 a total enrollment in its plan, of 162,000 persons. Its type of benefit is classed as "surgical only" and "medical-surgical, home, office and hospital."

The figures above given are from the report of the "Hospital Service Plan Commission," John R. Mannix, Chicago, chairman, as given in a November, 1945, brochure, "Non-Profit Medical Service Plans." (Address: 18 E. Division St., Chicago, 10.)

* * *

Announcement of Veterans' Administration Acting Surgeon General—Major General Paul R. Hawley.—During the last year, many criticisms of Veterans' Administration hospitals have appeared in the lay and medical press. On that account it has been reassuring to note the frank-

ness and courage of the acting surgeon general of the Veterans' Administration, Major General Paul R. Hawley, indicated in addresses given by him before different medical groups*, and in which he stated his opinion of governmental medicine. From a Chicago dispatch of December 3rd, the following excerpts should be of interest:

"DON'T CURB DOCTORS," SAYS MEDICAL CHIEF

Chicago, Dec. 3.—(UP.)—Major General Paul R. Hawley, medical director of the Veterans' Administration and Acting Surgeon General, tonight denounced any type of Government control of medicine, asserting the medical field "doesn't need the Government to tell it how" to solve its problems.

General Hawley told the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, now in session here, that "free and uncontrolled medicine will solve its own problems." . . .

He said the Veterans' Administration has an unprecedented job of treating thousands of veterans with an inadequate number of doctors.

He said private physicians would have to participate on a part time basis in veterans' hospitals and in private practice, receiving standard fees from the Veterans' Administration. . . .

It is to be hoped that the conferences being held in Washington at the time these comments are penned, will result in arrangements through which the physicians of California may be of increasing aid to returning veterans in need of medical care; while at the same time giving greater opportunity for C.P.S. (California Medical Association's non-profit voluntary plan for medical care) to demonstrate its capacity for service to citizens.

Contract Signed Between V. A. and C.P.S.—On January 8, word was received that the proposed cooperation between Veterans' Administration and California Physicians' Service for medical care of service-contracted disabilities of veterans had been signed.

With more than one million veterans in residence in California, the significance of this arrangement is self-evident. For press item thereon, see in this issue on page 45.

Because CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE is in press, no further comment can be made at this time.

FREE BLOOD PLASMA TO BE DISTRIBUTED —IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Value of Blood Plasma Has Been Shown.—The therapeutic value of blood plasma, as a means of saving human lives, has been demonstrated on battlefields and in combat clearing stations, as well as in hospitals, both military and civilian. While the United States was at war, the military personnel had first call and rights for plasma. The story of the blood donor centers is familiar to physicians and civilians alike.

* For address of Major General Paul R. Hawley before the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, at Chicago, on December 3, 1945, see *Journal of the American Medical Association* of December 22, 1945, page 1192.

Free Blood Plasma for Use in Private Practice.—Owing to the relative scarcity of plasma available for civilian institutions and for use in private medical practice, it is gratifying to give publicity to the news bulletin appearing below, in which an announcement of free blood plasma is made.

The California State Department of Public Health is formulating plans concerning distribution centers of the plasma. If, prior to the time the current issue of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL goes to press, additional information in regard to distribution is received, the same will be publicized.

The joint news bulletin of the Pacific Area Red Cross and California State Board of Public Health follows:

Plans for the receipt of 32,277 units of dried blood plasma to be distributed to the public free of charge through local California health departments, hospitals and doctors, were announced on January 2, in a joint statement by the California State Health Department and Pacific Area Red Cross.*

The dried plasma is California's first three months' share in the 1,250,000 units of plasma recently declared surplus by the Army and Navy and returned to the American Red Cross for civilian distribution.

Both Dr. Wilton L. Halverson, California state health director, and Dr. A. E. Hardison, acting medical director of Pacific Area Red Cross, stress the fact that this dried plasma in no way diminishes the need for people to donate blood at the 30 or more civilian blood donor centers now being operated by private organizations and medical groups in California.

"War experience has shown that dried plasma is most effective in about one out of every four cases requiring transfusions, and that whole blood should be used in about 75 per cent of cases," Dr. Halverson said.

The surplus plasma has not yet been received in the Pacific Area. As soon as the first three month's supply of 65,505 units arrives, 19,369 units will be stored in San Francisco as a reserve by the Red Cross. The remaining 46,136 units will be distributed to seven states, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Arizona, Utah and Nevada, on a population basis.

In California, the State Department of Public Health will make the distribution to local agencies through its Division of Laboratories. A distribution plan is being worked out which will insure that as soon as the plasma arrives, hospitals and physicians can obtain the material without delay for patients who need it.**

McClintock's Sign.—From the time that Alfred McClintock received his medical degree from the University of Glasgow to the close of his life, he devoted his efforts to obstetrics. In this field, he assumed an outstanding position, writing numerous valuable works that bear lasting testimony to his ability, observation and experience. The recognition accorded him during life culminated in the attainment of highest professional honors at the time of his death.—Warner's *Calendar of Medical History*.

We should strive, not to live long, but to live rightly.
—Seneca, *Epistulae ad Lucilium*, Epis. xciii, 2.

* For news item concerning plasma distribution, see also in this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, on page 56.

** The address of the California State Department of Public Health is 760 Market Street, San Francisco (2), California. The Pacific Area Red Cross has its office in the Civic Auditorium, San Francisco (1), California.